



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release-

Friday, September 5, 2008

Two arrested for identity theft after allegedly attempting to get a home loan with stolen identity

The Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Mohave GIITEM Investigations Unit arrested Jose Ozuna Alvarez and Ana Laura Balerrama for taking the identity of another after the couple allegedly attempted to secure a home loan for \$159,000 using stolen Social Security Numbers and false immigration documents. The couple is also believed to be in the country illegally and evidence shows they have secured employment, purchased as many as three new vehicles and obtained numerous credit cards using the stolen Social Security Numbers. One of the Social Security Numbers in question belongs to a nine-year old child and the other to a Resident Alien in Texas.

The couple was arrested by Detectives from the DPS Mohave GIITEM Investigations Unit on September 2, 2008 as they left their places of employment. Both Alvarez and Balerrama were booked into the Mohave County Jail on two counts each of Taking the Identity of Another, a class 4 Felony. They are also being held for deportation proceedings by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agency in United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with over 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix with offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

Press Contact: rbailey@azdps.gov

- End -

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | azdps.gov | pio@azpds.gov